

XX.—On *Siriella armata* (M.-Edw.) and the reputed Occurrence of *S. frontalis* (M.-Edw.) in British Seas. By E. W. L. HOLT and W. I. BEAUMONT.

Siriella armata (M.-Edw.).

Siriella (*Cynthilia*) *frontalis*, Norman, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1892, x. pp. 152, 153; W. Garstang, Journ. Mar. Biol. Assoc. iii. p. 221.
Mysis producta, Gosse, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 2, vol. xii. p. 156.

In examining a considerable collection of *Siriella* taken at various parts of the coast from Start Bay to Falmouth, we have been unable to find a single male that can be referred to *S. frontalis*, although that species has been recorded from Plymouth by Norman and by Garstang, in each case from a single specimen. *S. frontalis* (*Pseudosiriella frontalis*, Claus, Arbeit. Zool. Inst. Wien, v. iii. p. 6) differs from all its congeners in having the male organ of the pleopods simple and leaf-like, instead of bilobate and convoluted. In other characters *S. frontalis* and *S. armata* are extremely alike, so that there is difficulty in distinguishing females when no males are available, as was at first our case, from existing descriptions. In nearly all our gatherings, however, both sexes are present. All males have the appendages of the pleopods bilobate and convoluted, but in males and females alike the characters of the telson show considerable variation and appear to us to be of doubtful value in diagnosis. The number of terminal spinules between the large postero-lateral pair of spines of the telson ranges from three to five, while the spinules in the intervals between the spines on the lateral borders of the same organ approach in many cases the formula of *S. frontalis* (Norman, *loc. cit.*) rather than that of *S. armata* (Norman, 4th Ann. Report Fishery Board for Scotl. p. 163). Sars has given figures* of the antennal scales in the two species, showing a fairly obvious difference in shape; in our specimens that appendage, while agreeing best with *S. armata*, shows an undoubted approach to the condition of *S. frontalis* in some cases. The pereopods are described as more slender in *S. armata* than in *S. frontalis*. Such a character is difficult to seize without comparison of undoubted examples of the two species; but all our specimens appear referable in this particular to the first-named.

We were thus irresistibly compelled to the belief that of

* G. O. Sars, 'Middelhavets Mysider,' pl. xxxiv. fig. 2 & pl. xxxv. fig. 4.

the two species only *S. armata* was represented in our collection, but judged it prudent to appeal for assistance to the great experience of Dr. Norman, who requests us to state that his Plymouth specimen, which by some unaccountable error was recorded as *S. frontalis*, proves on re-examination to be a female of *S. armata*. We have examined Mr. Garstang's specimen: it is a female of *S. armata*, showing characters which are fully covered by the range of variation in the examples of this species in our own collection. We further learn from Dr. Norman that a tube of *Siriella* received by him from this Laboratory as *S. frontalis* contains only *S. armata*. *S. frontalis* must therefore be erased for the present from the British list, since Dr. Norman now thinks that Gosse's *Mysis producta* is in all probability *S. armata*.

We are requested by Dr. Norman to state that his description of *S. frontalis* was drawn up from that of Sars compared with Adriatic specimens received from Dr. Claus. Its validity is therefore in no way impaired by the accidental insertion of an erroneous record of locality.

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XXI.—On new small Mammals from South America.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

Oryzomys bæops, sp. n.

Very similar externally to *O. laniger* and *O. niveipes*, but really allied only to the latter. Fur long, soft and woolly. General colour dull greyish brown, darker along the middle line of the back. Under surface silvery greyish, the hairs dull slate for their basal two thirds; no trace of the buffy or fulvous tone found in the other two species. Back of ears scarcely darker than general colour. Hands whitish above; feet pale brown. Tail rather longer than head and body, closely scaly, nearly naked, greyish brown, rather paler below.

Skull of the general type of that of *O. niveipes*, but with its anterior portion, from the front of the brain-case forwards, markedly shortened and more delicate; fronto-nasal profile quite flat, not convex; nasals short and narrow; interorbital region narrow, concave mesially, its edges faintly marked, neither rounded nor beaded; anterior zygoma-root narrow,